

IGWEBUIKE STATEMENT EMAILED TO CAMPUS ADMINISTRATORS ON SATURDAY, MAY 30, 2020

Dear SCU administrators & faculty:

I speak as the Co-chair of Igwebuiké and on behalf of the supporters of our petition.

We will mourn and fight for the lives lost due to racism and police brutality. We refuse to let the life of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, Ahmaud Arbery and many more die in vain. We do not forget the lives lost to the Coronavirus Pandemic and recognize that racism is its own pandemic.

To our Black community, we will fight for you, we will cry with you, and above all we will love you. You are powerful and strong but if you are exhausted take a deep breath and take time for your mental health. May you find peace in your home and justice on the streets.

To the non-black community, we hear your silence and it kills us. We also hear it when you educate yourself and your peers. We hear it when you support Black voices and causes. We see when you are fighting for us in the streets, but we also feel it when you are not there.

To SCU administrators, you have the opportunity to make a change and start the ripple effect of ending police brutality nationwide. With SCU setting a precedent, other universities, Jesuit institutions, Silicon Valley corporations, partner organizations, and local police departments can follow behind. By addressing all aspects of the petition, you can prevent violence against Black students, faculty, staff, and community. In addition to the petition, what else will you do to protect Black lives on and off campus?

We need to see more education on how to be anti-racist and support Black people targeted towards non-black students. We continue to advocate for more mental health resources for Black students and funding for programs for Black students and Igwebuiké, TLC, the MCC, NSBE, and LBBA. This is the beginning of a complex conversation.

The signers of the petition “Do Black Lives Matter to SCU and the Santa Clara Police Department?” demand and seek answers in how our Jesuit institution will address the ongoing social justice issues. The petition below reflects the voices of students, alumni, faculty, families and community members who are tired of seeing Black people live in fear and die in vain. In unity with over 3,300 signers, please address the following:

Do #BlackLivesMatter to SCU and the Santa Clara Police Department?: Demand The Safety of Black SCU Students By Evaluating and Increasing Transparency Regarding SCU’s Relationship with SCPD

How can black students at Santa Clara University feel equally protected by the Santa Clara Police Department? They can't.

After hearing endless testimonies and watching videos of countless Black people being harassed, beaten, and murdered, we are traumatized. We insist that the University reevaluates and communicates its relationship with the local police department and proves they will equally "protect and serve" vulnerable Black students. How can we have a relationship with a racist institution while preaching Jesuit values of social justice and the creation of a "more just, humane" world?

Here are our list of demands:

1. We demand full transparency of the nature of SCU's relationship with the Santa Clara Police Department.

We pay over \$54,000 per year. How many of those dollars are put in the hands of the SCPD? Are Black students paying to put themselves in danger? If so, we demand the receipts of our transactions.

2. We demand that the University use its influence in the community to obtain answers and solutions to the following questions:

- How can SCPD prevent police brutality from happening on or around our campus?
- What is SCPD doing to train police officers to be anti-racist and nonviolent against unarmed Black people?
- What is SCPD doing to audit and combat the existence of white supremacy and racism on the force?
- What is SCPD doing to hold their fellow police forces accountable for the instances of police brutality and murders happening across the country?
- How can SCPD communicate the efforts of continuous racial sensitivity training to make Black students feel safe?

3. We demand that this be continual and constant effort of education, communication, and protection that persist long after #BlackLivesMatter stops trending. These demands are just the beginning and a small part of a long overdue movement. In the next steps, we would like to see a plan of action and continuous progress report of how the demands will be addressed.

Santa Clara University must be proactive in dismantling a system that was built to harm its Black students and faulty or else more Black lives will be lost. We ask SCU to be the one of the first of many schools that should change their relationship with their local police department and demand a new system that actively protects Black lives.

If these demands seem unrealistic or unreasonable, we then ask you to evaluate and explain why you value the protection of police officer's jobs over the protection of Black student lives.

To show your support for the safety and protection Black students lives at Santa Clara University, sign this petition. <http://chng.it/vyvRsfvPDG>

We would appreciate a response and a meeting to address our needs and concerns.

Regards,

Josephine Hulburd